

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES (CDSS) AND TRIBAL
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)
ADMINISTRATORS' MEETING
SUMMARY**

**August 29, 2017
744 P Street, OB8-Room 235/237
Sacramento, CA
9:00 am – 12:00 pm**

This document summarizes the key issues discussed at the meeting between Tribal TANF Administrators (TTA) and leaders and CDSS representatives on August 29, 2017.

A summary of the prior Tribal TANF Administrators' meeting on May 9, 2017, was reviewed and approved without edits.

General Updates

Family Empowerment and Engagement Division (FEED) Deputy Director, Todd Bland, provided updates regarding the Federal Administration for Children & Families (ACF) TANF Summit in Washington, DC. Director of the Office of Family Assistance (OFA), Clarence Carter wants to reimagine TANF; it is about the clients and making the program work. There is a 10% reduction to the TANF block grant.

Kim Johnson, CalWORKs and Child Care Branch Chief, gave an update on changes to the state budget. Senate Bill (SB) 89 requires that the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) establish the California CalWORKs Outcomes and Accountability Review (Cal-OAR) System by July 1, 2019. The Cal-OAR System is a set of performance indicators and outcomes that will look at removing barriers, and focuses on continual improvement of county CalWORKs programs. There are three elements that go into the Cal-OAR System:

- Performance Indicators to identify thresholds to measure performance
- CalWORKs Self-Assessment Process assesses performance based on the indicators and identify strengths and weaknesses
- CalWORKs System Improvement Plan engages in peer review and focuses on ways to strengthen programs and services based upon the self-assessment process

A mandated stakeholder group will work on consultation with stakeholders, per law that passed.

CalWORKs 2.0 places a greater emphasis on engaging clients and helping them meet with their identified goals (Cal-OAR process).

The Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Care Children (the Bridge) is a \$31 million budget proposal to serve as a resource to families by offering emergency vouchers to help pay for child care (up to 6 months; can be extended to 12 months). The orientation will begin on January 1, 2019. The three major components that go into the Bridge:

- Emergency, time-limited voucher
- Pairing resource family with child care navigators
- Trauma informed training

Implementation of Senate Bill (SB) 89 created the CalWORKs Education Opportunity and Attainment (EOA) program. This four-million-dollar program is a one-time educational incentive to high school students. CalWORKs recipients are eligible to receive a \$500 bonus for earning a high school diploma and those who enroll in college may be eligible to receive \$1,000. This program will run from January 1 thru June 30, 2018.

CalWORKs Program Updates

Elaine Ward, Bureau Chief for the CalWORKs Eligibility Branch, gave CalWORKs program updates. Counties are requesting for a dashboard to post reports, similar to what CalFresh currently has (long term project).

Intercounty transfer (ICT) workgroup is still working to solve some complexities of transferring cases and the coordination of benefits for clients that move between counties.

We are watching which bills will pass going into September. More information to come at the next meeting.

SB 89 would require the CDSS to implement a non-biometric identity verification alternative to replace the Statewide Fingerprint Imaging System (SFIS). The department is working to create a workgroup by November. Counties will no longer be requiring clients to be fingerprinted. The elimination of SFIS should go into effect no later than June 2018.

CDSS Tribal Affairs Team

Heather Hostler, Director of the Office of Tribal Affairs, placed emphasis on Governor Edmund Brown's Executive Order B-10-11 and reiterated that she is here to build better government-to-government relationships between the CDSS and California Indian Tribes. The first thing she looked at was the Tribal TANF Consultation Guidelines and the different topics and issues that impact tribes. Heather wants to build on strengths that already exist by focusing on two phases. The first phase is consultation and the second phase would be county relationships.

Housing, Homelessness and Civil Rights Presentation

Ali Sutton, Branch Chief to the Housing, Homelessness and Civil Rights Branch, gave a presentation on different housing resources that are available to CalWORKs recipients.

- Housing First centers on getting people into housing and then focusing on the homeless services later.
- Housing First and Coordinated Entry allows clients access at multiple point of entries

- Rapid Rehousing focuses on obtaining housing as quick as possible (30-45 days)
- Homeless Assistance (HA) provides temporary assistance (paid for up to 16 consecutive days) and permanent assistance (paid to avoid eviction or help clients move in to new permanent housing) and is available once every 12 months

CalFresh Updates

Sherry Mung and Amber Bonilla, from the Policy and Programs Bureau presented on the Elderly Simplified Application Project (ESAP). The goal of ESAP is to improve CalFresh access among the low-income elderly and disabled populations. ESAP is set to begin October 1, 2017, and is expected to be a four-year demonstration project ending September 30, 2021.

Time on Aid Presentation

Octavio Galvan, Analyst from CalWORKs Eligibility Bureau, presented on time on aid (TOA), the TANF 60-month time clock, the CalWORKs 48-month time clock, the Welfare to Work 24-month time clock and exemptions that tick and do not tick the TANF and CalWORKs time clocks.

Tribal TANF Program

Ryan Tsukiji, Manager of the Tribal TANF Unit, conveyed the results of the 50% Unemployment Survey from the All-County Letter (ACL) 17-63. Tribes who did not respond to the survey but experienced an unemployment rate greater than 50% are encouraged to work directly with their respective county to ensure the clock stopping exemption is applied.

Consultation Guidelines

Ryan asked TTAs if there were any recommendations for proposed changes to the current Tribal TANF Consultation Guidelines. TTAs suggested removing the word, "consultation" and replacing with "communication" or "relationship" guidelines. This item will be revisited at a later time.

Other Updates

The CalWORKs bureau is currently hiring a Section Chief, under Elaine. The Tribal TANF Unit will be managing the Indian Health Clinic (IHC) Program and is recruiting to fill that vacant position.

NEXT TRIBAL TANF ADMINISTRATORS MEETING

Tuesday, November 14, 2017, 9:00 am – 12 pm (CDSS Building 9, Room 1804)

CDSS ACTION ITEMS

- Email TTAs to request for 1-2 tribal representatives (sent on September 5, 2017)
- Email Heather Hostler's, OFA, contact information

PROPOSED PRESENTATION

- Child Support Reporting Process Presentation
- Trauma Informed Care 101